



March 26, 2024

RE: MNACHC COMMENTS on SF2669

Madam Chair and Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

My name is Rochelle Westlund, I am the Director of Public Policy for the Minnesota Association of Community Health Centers (MNACHC) MNACHC represents 17 of Minnesota's Federally Qualified Health Centers who provide primary medical, dental and behavioral health care to medically underserved areas across the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SF2669. There are a number of provisions that support patients like the continuation of audio only telehealth services. MNACHC would like to address two items in bill that have specific impact to FQHCs. Both are included in changes made to reimbursement for Federally Qualified Health Centers found in Article 2 section 7, which amends Minn. Stat. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 256B.0625, subdivision 30.

The first outlines guidelines for establishing encounter rate when there is a merger of clinics. Health Centers would look forward to continued work with the Department of Human Services to ensure clarity in how this new rate would be determined to ensure accurate rates and stability in future rebasing.

The second, is around the reimbursement for targeted case management services at FQHC's. We appreciate the language and the inclusion of these services for FQHCs but want to make sure that there is clarity around how TCM is bill and ensuring accuracy if it is to be built into Health Center rates in real time and without the up to 5 year delay if it is required to be build into a traditional cost reports.

We thank the committee for your time and attention to this matter and look forward to continued work.

Sincerely,

Rochelle Westlund
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